



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



AUG 19 2004

Memorandum

Heads of Offices and Bureaus

Willie R. Taylor, Director
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

Subject: Recipients of the 2004 DOI Environmental Achievement Awards

I am pleased to announce the recipients of the 2004 Department of the Interior (DOI) Environmental Achievement Awards. This award recognizes DOI bureaus, offices, employees, and contractors for exceptional achievements that conserve our nation's natural resources through communication, consultation, and cooperation. Areas of activity recognized by this award include: environmental stewardship, waste/pollution prevention, recycling, environmentally preferable purchasing, sustainable design/green buildings, and environmental management systems.

The eleven award recipients below were selected by the 2004 evaluation panel. This panel consists of environmental and procurement experts from DOI bureaus and offices and is chaired by the Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance.

Please join me in congratulating the following award recipients for their exemplary work; work that is worthy of study and emulation at other sites throughout Interior. The 2004 DOI Environmental Achievement Award recipients are:

Teams

Baca/Dol'ay azhi Consolidated School, BIA, DOI's First LEED Certified Building
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, FWS, Sustainable Design for the Herbert H. Bateman Center
Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, FWS, Sustainably Designed Visitor Center
NPS Concession Environmental Management Program, NPS, Contracting for Environmental Success
OSM/VISTA Watershed Development Team, OSM, Rallying Resources for Watersheds
Mittry Lake Cooperative Management Area, BLM, Collaborative Wildfire Restoration
Great Swamp NWR: Harding Landfill Project, FWS, and the DOI Office of the Solicitor, Collaborative Landfill Remediation

Cooperators

Xanterra Parks and Resorts - Zion National Park, NPS, "Ecologix" Environmental Management System
Grand Teton Lodge Company, NPS, Environmental Preferable Business Practices
Blue and Gold Fleet Marine Operations, NPS, Sound Environmental Management on Land and Shore
Xanterra Parks and Resorts - Yellowstone National Park, NPS, Minimizing Environmental Impacts

Attached is a summary of the recipients' achievements. Please distribute this memorandum throughout your bureau or office so that all DOI employees can learn from these success stories. A copy of this memorandum and recipients' achievements summaries can also be found on DOI's greening website at www.doi.gov/greening. Please call Catherine Cesnik of my staff at 650-329-5186 with any questions.

Please save October 6th for the 2004 DOI Environmental Achievement Award Ceremony. Invitations will be sent mid-September.

Attachment

cc: Award Recipients
 Bureau Award Coordinators
 Award Evaluation Panel
 Bureau Environmental Specialists

TEAMS CATEGORY

Baca/Dol'ay azhi Consolidated School, BIA, *DOI's First LEED Certified Building*

DOI would like to extend special congratulations to the Baca/Dol'ay azhi Consolidated School, the first DOI facility to be certified by the U.S. Green Building Council as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building. LEED criteria for certification are widely considered to be the industry's best criteria for sustainable design buildings. Certification includes a rigorous compliance check by a third party. It is an outstanding achievement for any building to achieve LEED certification, and DOI is especially proud that a BIA Indian School is the first within DOI and the State of New Mexico to achieve LEED certification.

Accomplished through a Corps of Engineers Interagency Agreement and managed by BIA Architect Barbara Borgeson and Navajo architect Dyron Murphy, the LEED certified school was designed and built in 14 months. The outstanding construction management team not only brought this project in on time, but also on budget. Sustainable design features include an optimized heating and cooling system, use of local and recycled-content building materials, xeriscaping, and green housekeeping. The school is not only sustainable, it also embodies elements sacred to Navajo tradition.

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, FWS, *Sustainable Design for the Herbert H. Bateman Center*

The Herbert H. Bateman Visitor and Administrative Center at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge is an excellent example of how green buildings can help DOI achieve its mission to conserve our nation's natural resources, and do so in partnership with local communities. The refuge partnered with a local elementary school, a local middle school, the Town of Chincoteague, Accomack County, and the Commonwealth of Virginia to design the facility and fund its construction. The building boasts aggressive energy and water conservation measures. Most impressive is the constructed wetlands with native species plants that treat wastewater on-site for reuse in flushing toilets. The building uses many recycled-content materials, including wood, rubber flooring,

carpeting, and fiber board panels. Staff will showcase the building in their interpretation programs helping Chincoteague's 1.5 million visitors learn more about green buildings. The final design of the building is registered with the U.S. Green Building Council for a possible Leadership Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating.

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, FWS, *Sustainably Designed Visitor Center*

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge built a 9,700 square-foot sustainably designed visitor center and headquarters that has features in all of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) categories. Sustainable elements include a heating and cooling system that uses the ambient temperature of ground water to regulate the building's temperature; natural ventilation systems; recycled-content wood columns, roof trusses, carpet, linoleum flooring, and drywall; low or no Volatile Organic Compounds and hydro-chlorofluorocarbons materials; and no alkaline copper quaternary preservatives in exterior wood. The facility boasts excellent water conservation measures including a ground water recharge tank. Degraded wet meadows on-site are restored and replanted with native species. A model partnership effort, neighboring organizations such as the Massachusetts Audubon Society and the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities, provided key input in the building's design and construction. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Department of Parks and Recreation contributed \$1,000,000 toward design and construction of the facility. Interpretive exhibits provide education on the benefits of sustainable buildings, wise resource management, and environmental stewardship.

NPS Concession Environmental Management Program, NPS, *Contracting for Environmental Success*

The National Park Service (NPS) Concession Environmental Management Program (CoEMP), until now, has been an unsung environmental hero. The program manages contracts for NPS concessioners and incorporates environmental goals into the contracts. The CoEMP demonstrates that it is not only possible to "green" contracted relationships within the Federal government, but that it is possible to create win-win situations for the NPS and

concessioners alike. The CoEMP also shows that even with limited resources and staffing, employees can increase awareness and accountability in environmental regulatory compliance, best management practices, and environmental management systems. Modeling Secretary Norton's 4 C's, communication, consultation, and cooperation, all in the service of conservation, the CoEMP creates a culture where concessioners and park staff embrace the benefits of proactive environmental management and integrate the concept into successful business models.

In a few short years, the CoEMP has made a tremendous contribution to DOI's environmental stewardship. Bureaus such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation are looking to the CoEMP for advice and assistance in managing their concession programs.

OSM/VISTA Watershed Development Team,
OSM, Rallying Resources for Watersheds

Dr. Allan Comp, working with the West Virginia VISTA Director Judith Russell, assembled an initiative to bring awareness and expertise to important acid mine drainage issues. The resulting OSM/VISTA partnership secured over one million dollars in in-kind donations and over half a million dollars in cash grants. Over the last 18 months, the OSM/VISTAs enlisted 2,784 volunteers who worked 32,727 hours to find sources of contamination, effects on water quality, and potential solutions. Additionally, the OSM/VISTAs work with children and young people to help instill in them a sense of pride in their community, an understanding of environmental issues, and practical things they can do to help.

The OSM/VISTA watershed Development Team is now thirty strong and serves groups in seven states, from Pennsylvania to Alabama. The Team creates a solid base of environmental stewardship in watersheds that are part of the OSM Clean Streams Program.

Mittry Lake Cooperative Management Area,
BLM, Collaborative Wildfire Restoration

In desert southwest riparian areas, natural wildfires have greatly increased in the past few years. A contributing factor to the fires is the presence of non-native salt cedar, or tamarisk,

trees. Salt cedar trees are considered a hazard fuel because of their density and resinous composition. The Mittry Lake project turned a catastrophic wildfire into an opportunity to achieve environmental stewardship objectives. The Mittry Lake project stabilized native willow, cottonwood, and mesquite tress, other native vegetation, and controlled salt cedar growth in a proactive manner. Their working group brought many people together to tackle this complex and challenging project. Using fire plan guidance, partnering agencies pooled resources to accomplish salt cedar eradication in a streamlined and innovative way. Involving stakeholders and community educators created a culture of environmental stewardship that will be carried into the future.

Great Swamp NWR: Harding Landfill Project, FWS, and DOI Office of the Solicitor,
Collaborative Landfill Remediation

Civil actions filed by the Department of the Interior to recover cleanup costs rarely prompt requests from the responsible parties for a public ceremony celebrating the settlement. An exception occurred on May 18, 2004, at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge in Morris County, New Jersey. Part of the Refuge, a former Superfund site and local landfill, is now thriving wetlands. At the request of the responsible party -- Harding Township -- the Refuge hosted a "deed transfer ceremony" celebrating the settlement of Interior's civil suit seeking reimbursement of cleanup costs through the unique transfer of a 64-acre parcel of undeveloped land from Harding Township to DOI for management as part of the Refuge.

The settlement represented the culmination of years of work on the part of the Refuge, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the DOI Office of the Solicitor, in collaboration with the local government, a conservation organization, and the Department of Justice to (1) address environmental risks at the Refuge through the design and construction of a protective, cost-effective remedy, and (2) craft a settlement under which the parties were able to protect undeveloped land from an imminent threat of residential development, preserve important uplands and wetlands habitat, and preserve and strengthen the longstanding bonds between the Refuge and the Township in which it is located.

COOPERATORS CATEGORY**Xanterra Parks and Resorts - Zion National Park, NPS, "Ecologix" Environmental Management System**

The integration of business and ecology through "Ecologix", Xanterra's Environmental Management System (EMS), is a shining example of their commitment to the National Park Service mission and the environment. Environmental Management Systems create and put into use policies, plans, practices, and evaluations to ensure environmental goals are set and met. Ecologix is not only a comprehensive and effective EMS, Xanterra has made Ecologix available to all Xanterra managers and is ISO 14001 certified. ISO 14001 is a rigorous certification process where EMSs are reviewed by third parties against stringent criteria to ensure excellence for the environment.

In addition to their EMS, Xanterra has shown a true commitment to NPS, DOI, and the environment by sharing their Sustainability Report. Compiled for the first time in 2003, it is the first among NPS concessioners and one of a few in the entire tourism industry. This environmental report fully discloses every aspect of the company's environmental footprint, as well as reductions in resource consumption. Some specific highlights of their results-based EMS at Zion include reduction in water consumption by 40%, in solid waste by 59%, and in electricity usage by 25%. Another effective communication tool is the Baseline Resource Tracking System (BRTS), which measures quantitative baseline information against past operations and programs. For example, the BRTS tracks resource conservation and consumption including electricity, natural gas, solid waste recycled, water, gasoline, diesel, propane, hazardous waste recycled, waste water, and fuel oil. Adding to Xanterra's achievement, they have taken steps to integrate renewable energy technologies through the use of wind power.

Grand Teton Lodge Company, NPS, Environmentally Preferable Business Practices

Grand Teton Lodge Company (GTLC) continues to demonstrate their commitment to environmental stewardship at Grand Teton National Park and the surrounding community through a company-wide, ISO 14001 certified

Environmental Management System. To promote environmental awareness and involve employees, park visitors, and the local community, GTLC maintains many partnerships and educational programs. GTLC remains one of Jackson County's largest recyclers and supports Jackson Community Recycling by sponsoring electronics recycling, fluorescent lamp recycling, and serving on the recycling board. In order to advance renewable energy use and conservation, GTLC partnered with Lower Valley Energy to champion the commercial availability of wind-generated power in Wyoming. In cooperation with Grand Teton National Park, GTLC uses biodiesel in all trucks and buses. GTLC actively supports the efforts of Teton County Weed and Pest to abate noxious weeds. GTLC also partners with the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics to deliver nature-based training to local community schools and employees.

Blue and Gold Fleet Marine Operations, NPS, Sound Environmental Management on Land and Shore

A leading environmental steward in marine tourism, Blue and Gold Fleet (B&G) provides fast, clean, and efficient ferry services for more than 1.5 million people yearly between San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf, NPS's Alcatraz Island, and commuter ferries for several bay area cities. B&G Fleet partners with the National Park Service and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy in many projects to protect, stabilize and rehabilitate Alcatraz's natural and cultural resources. B&G also partners with Marine agencies, including the Marine Mammal Center to insure that ferry operations have minimal impact on sea lion populations, up from ten in 1989 to 1,341 in 2003. B&G's "Green Waves" Environmental Management System is an exemplary launch pad for comprehensive environmental management that now influences all phases of B&G operations. In 2003, B&G tested biodiesel fuel in its 400 passenger ferry, *Oski*, to help reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil as well as to reduce impacts to the environment.

**Xanterra Parks & Resorts – Yellowstone
National Park, NPS, *Minimizing Environmental
Impacts***

As a leader in the tourism industry, Xanterra uses many resources to serve its customers. On a typical, summer day Xanterra serves more than 9,000 park visitors and operates over 200 vehicles. As a concessioner at Yellowstone National Park, Xanterra minimizes its environmental “footprint” by tracking twelve resource streams with four years’ worth of accumulated data. In 2003, in partnership with the NPS, Xanterra successfully diverted 257 tons of recyclable waste from the landfill. Xanterra successfully educated their employees, and others, to implement environmentally preferable strategies. Xanterra Yellowstone uses organic foods in their restaurants, including 100% conservation beef --where cattle are raised locally, are range-fed, and are never given growth hormones or antibiotics. Xanterra reduces energy consumption through hybrid vehicles, daily Energy Conservation Checklists, technological retrofits, diligent maintenance, sustainable design, and responsible purchasing. All of these resource conserving practices helps them serve the DOI and NPS missions.